

What is claimed is:

1. A method for seamlessly switching between media streams during playback, comprising:

receiving a first media stream;

playing said first media stream;

receiving a second media stream;

playing said second media stream; and

ending play of said first media stream after said playing said second media stream.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said playing said first media stream comprises playing said first media stream via a first media player, and wherein said playing said second media stream comprises playing said second media stream via a second media player.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising buffering at least one of said first media stream and said second media stream to a media stream buffer.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein said ending play of said first media stream comprises ending play of said first media stream when a predetermined amount of said at least one of said first media stream and said second stream is buffered in said media stream buffer.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said ending play of said first media stream comprises ending play of said first media stream upon the occurrence of a predetermined event.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said ending play of said first media stream comprises ending play of said first media stream upon a predetermined state of a media player buffer.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising ending receipt of said first media stream before said playing said second media stream.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said ending receipt of said first media stream comprises ending receipt of said first media stream before receiving said second media stream.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said playing said second media stream comprises playing said second media stream beginning at an index point corresponding to said ending play of said first media stream.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said playing said second media stream comprises playing said second media stream beginning at a file index in said first media stream corresponding to said ending play of said first media stream.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said playing said second media stream comprises playing said second media stream beginning at a time index in said first media stream corresponding to said ending play of said first media stream.

12. A method for seamlessly switching between media streams during playback, comprising:

playing a first media stream;

detecting a request to play a second media stream;

beginning play of said second media stream; and

ending play of said first media stream after said beginning play of said second media stream.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said playing a first media stream comprises playing a first media stream on a first media player, and further comprising playing said second media stream on a second media player.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising buffering said second media stream in a second media stream buffer.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said ending play of said first media stream comprises ending play of said first media stream when a predetermined amount of said second media stream is buffered in said second media stream buffer.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein said ending play of said first media stream comprises ending play of said first media stream upon an occurrence of a predetermined event.

17. The method of claim 12, further comprising buffering said first media stream in a first media stream buffer.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprises playing said first media stream from said first media stream buffer.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising ending buffering of said first media stream prior to beginning play of said second media stream.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said beginning play of said second media stream comprises beginning play of said second media stream before said first media stream buffer is empty.

21. A method for seamlessly switching between media streams during playback, comprising:

playing a first media stream via a first media player;

playing a second media stream via a second media player;

detecting a request to play said second media stream;

seamlessly switching from said first media player to said second media player in response to said request.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising buffering said first media stream to a first media stream buffer.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said playing a first media stream comprises playing said first media stream from said first media stream buffer.

24. The method of claim 21, further comprising buffering said second media stream to a second media stream buffer.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said playing a second media stream comprises playing said second media stream from said second media stream buffer.

26. The method of claim 23, further comprising, upon detecting said request to play said second media stream:

ending buffering of said first media stream to said first media stream buffer; and

buffering said second media stream to a second media stream buffer;

wherein said playing said second media stream comprises playing said second media stream from said second media stream buffer.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said playing said second media stream from said second media stream buffer comprises playing said second media stream from said second media stream buffer before said first media stream buffer empties.

28. A method for enabling seamless switching between media streams during playback, comprising:

transmitting a first media stream to a media client;
receiving a request for a second media stream from said media client; and
transmitting said second media stream at a second media stream index
corresponding with the point at which transmitting said first media stream is stopped.

29. A method for enabling seamlessly switching between media streams during
playback, comprising:

buffering a first media stream;
playing said first buffered media stream;
seamlessly switching between playing said first buffered media stream and
playing a second media stream.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising buffering said second media stream
while playing said first buffered media stream.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein said buffering a second media stream while
playing said first buffered media stream comprises buffering a second media stream via a second
media player while playing said first buffered media stream via a first media player.

32. A method for seamlessly switching between media streams comprising:
playing a first media stream;
buffering a second media stream while playing said first media stream;

seamlessly switching from playing said first media stream to playing said second media stream.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein said seamlessly switching from playing said first media stream to playing said second media stream comprises switching from playing said first media stream to playing said second media stream when said second media stream is fully buffered.

34. A media client environment comprising:

- a foreground media player that buffers a first media stream and plays said buffered first media stream;
- a background media player that buffers a second media stream and plays said buffered second media stream; and
- a switch control that interchanges said foreground media player and said background media player to seamlessly switch between said first media stream and said second media stream.

35. A method for enabling seamless switching between media streams during playback, comprising:

- buffering a first media stream;
- playing said first media stream;
- sending a request for a server to stop streaming said first media stream;
- sending a request for a server to start streaming a second media stream;

buffering said second media stream; and

playing said first buffered media stream after said sending said request for a server to stop streaming said first media stream and while said buffering said second media stream.

36. A media client environment for seamlessly switching between media streams during playback, comprising:

a first media player;

a second media player; and

a media stream switch control for switching between said first media player and said second media player so that said second media player begins playing when said first media player stops playing.

37. A method for seamlessly switching between media streams during playback, comprising:

transmitting a first media stream to a first media player at a media client;

receiving a request for a second media stream from said media client;

transmitting said second media stream to a second media player at said media client; and

ending transmission of said first media stream to said media client when said transmitting said second media stream begins.